

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IO-10 OMB-01 /071 W

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R 140801Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9565

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2003

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BANGKOK PASS SONGKHLA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, MY, XC

SUBJ: COMMUNIST TERRORIST ATTACKS AND INDOCHINA SITUATION

REF: A. K.L. 1810

B. K.L. 1805

C. K.L. A-22, 2/13/75

1. SUMMARY: COMMUNIST TERRORIST (CT) ATTACKS IN EASTERN KEDAH AND NORTHERN PERAK CLAIMED 13 LIVES LAST WEEK. GOM BELIEVES UP-SURGE CT ATTACKS IS INFLUENCED BY COMMUNIST VICTORIES IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM, BUT DENIES THERE ANY DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA (CPM) TERRORIST GROUPS AND OUTSIDE ELEMENTS. PRIME MINISTER RAZAK, RESPONDING TO PUBLIC AND PRESS

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CRITICISM

THAT "SOMETHING BE DONE" TO STEM CT ATTACKS, HAS

REAFFIRMED GOM DETERMINE REGION TO WIPE OUT CT'S. GOVT SECURITY FORCES (SF), REPORTEDLY AUGMENTED BY FRESH UNITS SENT TO THAI-MALAYSIAN BORDER AREA, ARE CONDUCTING EXTENSIVE SEARCH OPERATIONS IN MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED AREAS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 7 AND 10, CT GROUP APPROX 60 STRONG AMBUSHED ARMY UNITS IN MUDA VALLEY DAM COMPLEX AREA ABOUT 30 MILES EAST OF ALOR STAR CLOSE TO THAI BORDER. CT UNIT IS BELIEVED TO BE ARMED FORCE OF CPM-MARXIST/LENINIST (CPM/ML) WHICH SPLIT OFF FROM CPM 12TH REGIMENT LAST YEAR. ALSO ON APRIL 7, CT'S OF CPM 12TH REGIMENT ATTACKED AN SF LANDROVER NEAR TEMENGGOR DAM IN NORTHERN PERAK, RESULTING IN FOUR SF PERSONNEL WOUNDED; ANOTHER SOLDIER WAS INJURED BY A BOOBY TRAP ON APRIL 9 IN FOLLOW-UP OPERATIONS IN SAME AREA. IN ALL, 13 SF PERSONNEL WERE KILLED AND 22 WOUNDED IN THESE INCIDENTS.

3. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS AND INFORMED SOURCES, ARMY 6TH INFANTRY BRIGADE HAS LAUNCHED EXTENSIVE SEARCH OPERATIONS IN EASTERN KEDAH, AND SECURITY HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN TIGHTENED IN TEMENGGOR DAM AND EAST-WEST HIGHWAY AREAS IN NORTHERN PERAK. AN AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCE SAID THAT TWO MORE INFANTRY BATTALIONS HAVE BEEN SENT TO KEDAH AND PERAK, AND THAT AN ADDITIONAL BATTALION MAY BE COMMITTED TO COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS SOON. ALSO, CANADIAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT ON APRIL 7, AN AUTOMOBILE CARRYING SEVERAL CANADIAN ENGINEERS WAS FIRED ON BY CT'S NEAR GRIK, PERAK; THE CAR SUSTAINED 19 BULLET HOLES BUT THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES (THIS INCIDENT HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED IN PRESS).

4. DURING PAST WEEK AS SITUATION IN INDOCHINA HAS CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE, ENGLISH AND MALAY LANGUAGE PRESS HAVE BEEN EAGER TO LINK DOMESTIC CT ATTACKS AND COMMUNIST SUCCESSES IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. "BERITA HARIAN", FOR EXAMPLE, URGED MALAYSIAN PUBLIC NOT TO PANIC IN FACE OF LOCAL CT ATTACKS, AT SAME TIME NOTING SWIFT COLLAPSE OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE RESISTANCE TO COMMUNIST INVASION. ALL PAPERS HAVE CALLED ON GOVT TO TAKE NEW MEASURES TO COMBAT CT'S.

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5. SEEKING TO ALLAY PUBLIC FEARS, PM RAZAK IN NEWS CONFERENCE APRIL 12 SAID THAT RECENT UPSURGE IN CT ATTACKS WAS NOT CONNECTED WITH EVENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, BUT ADMITTED "THEY COULD HAVE BEEN INSPIRED" BY COMMUNIST VICTORIES THERE. PM RAZAK THEN REITERATED THAT GOM IS PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE ANY DE FACTO GOVT THAT EMERGES IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM, ADDING: "WE HOPE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND WORK TOGETHER WITH THEM TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVE OF ESTABLISHING A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA." HE ALSO REJECTED

SIHANOUK'S ULTIMATUM THAT MALAYSIA AND EIGHT OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD RECOGNIZE GRUNK BEFORE IT IS INSTALLED IN PHNOM PENH, HEWING TO LINE THAT GOM WILL NOT RECOGNIZE A GOVT THAT IS NOT IN DE FACTO CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY (SEE ALSO REF A).

6. "NEW STRAITS TIMES" APRIL 13 FRONTPAGED REMARKS BY GOM HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER GHAZALI SHAFIE UPON CONCLUSION OF FOUR-DAY VISIT TO BANGKOK FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH RTG OFFICIALS ON SOUTHEAST ASIA SECURITY SITUATION. GHAZALI SAID HE HOPES BLOODSHED IN INDOCHINA WILL CEASE AND, AFTER BRIEF VISIT TO UNNAMED TOWN ON THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER, THAT "WORLD WOULD TAKE NOTICE OF THE PLIGHT OF THE VICTIMS IN THE WAR-TORN AREAS." ON SITUATION IN THAI-MALAYSIAN BORDER AREA, GHAZALI SAID THAT GOM REDEPLOYED FORCES AND CHANGED TACTICAL STRATEGY IN ITS COUNTER-INSURGENCY EFFORTS IN LIGHT OF SITUATION IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. HE ALSO SAID THERE "GOOD COOPERATION" BETWEEN THAI AND MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES, BUT THAT SERIES OF COMMUNIST AMBUSHES DID NOT CONSTITUTE A "NEW OFFENSIVE" BY ARMED TERRORIST ELEMENTS. (LATTER CONTRASTS WITH STATEMENT BY THAI BORDER PATROL POLICE COMMANDER, LT. GEN. SURAPHON CHUNLAPHRAM, ON APRIL 12 THAT MALAYSIAN INSURGENTS HAVE MOUNTED AN "OFFENSIVE" IN THE BORDER AREA ADJACENT TO THE BETONG SALIENT; SEE FBIS BANGKOK 120518Z APR 75.)

7. COMMENT: AS DISCUSSED IN REF C, TEMENGGOR DAM AND EAST-WEST HIGHWAY AREAS OF NORTHERN PERAK HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO FAIRLY EXTENSIVE AND FREQUENT COMMUNIST ATTACKS SINCE MAY 1974. SITUATION IS COMPOUNDED BY INCREASINGLY ACTIVE CPM/ML FACTION WHICH HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ATTACKS
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RECENTLY IN EASTERN KEDAH, AS WELL AS ROCKET ATTACKS AGAINST SEVEN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS EARLY THIS MONTH (REF B). THE RECENT RASH OF CT ATTACKS STEMS PARTIALLY FROM CPM INTER-FACTIONAL COMPETITION AS WELL AS TREND DURING PAST YEAR OF ALL CT ELEMENTS TOWARD MORE AGGRESSIVE ACTION. THERE ALSO MAY BE EAGERNESS TO CAPITALIZE ON COMMUNIST SUCCESSES OUTSIDE OF COUNTRY TO KEEP THE GOM AND MALAYSIAN PUBLIC OFF BALANCE.
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